

A large galvanized trap is designed to catch several mice with

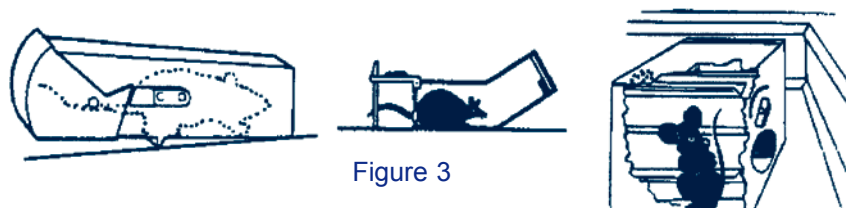


Figure 3

one setting. Glue boards are also highly effective for trapping mice. Glue boards contain a sticky non-poisonous glue which holds the mouse.

Poisons - The most commonly used poison baits are those that prevent blood clotting. These are slow acting poisons and mice need to feed several times before they are killed, so it is necessary to maintain a continuous fresh supply until feeding stops. Label directions will tell you how many days, usually eight to twelve. All poisons must be used as stated on the product label. Read the label - Follow Directions. **READ THE LABEL!**

Where can we buy traps and poisons?

At major chain stores, supermarkets, hardware stores, farm supply stores, and retail grain and elevator facilities. Pest control operators and distributors sometimes offer retail sales.

For More Information:

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Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division

Questions & Answers about **Mice**



Many species of mice are found in the United States, although the house mouse *Mus musculus* is by far the most common and troublesome. Because the mouse is so small and requires so little food, it has spread much farther than rats. Today it is found all over the world. Except for man, it has the widest distribution of any mammal.

What does the house mouse look like?

It has brownish-gray fur on the back with white color on the belly. It has a slender graceful body weighing about one ounce. Its length is about six inches including the tail which is as long or longer than the body. The ears are large and prominent and will cover the eyes, if pulled down. The eyes are large and the nose is pointed as in Figure 1.



Figure 1

Do mice grow up to be rats? - No!

Mice and rats are separate species of rodents.

How do young rats differ from mice?

The head and feet of a young rat are large in proportion to its body whereas the head and feet of a mouse are small.

Young Rat



Large head and feet

House Mouse



Small head and feet

Figure 2

Do mice cause disease?

Yes, over 200 disease germs have been identified with mice; however, only two have any importance in Michigan.

Salmonella is responsible for food poisoning by eating foods contaminated by mice. Salmonellosis may cause serious illness and even death.

Leptospirosis is a disease with symptoms similar to influenza.. Infection is from food and water contaminated with urine of infected mice.

How do we know if we have mice?

When We See Live Mice

Mouse droppings - means mice are present. Mouse droppings are 1/4 inch long with pointed ends (sausage shaped), compared to rat droppings which are 3/4 inch long with blunt ends (capsule shaped) -Figure 3

Teeth Gnaw Marks

Nesting Materials - mice use paper, furniture stuffing, fabrics, and other soft materials to make nests.

Mice or signs of mice can be any where in the home; but are most common in kitchen cabinets, drawers, pantries, under or behind appliances, and in closets.

What do mice eat?

Cereal, grains and seed type foods are preferred, but they will eat most types of edible foods, particularly food crumbs since mice are nibblers and require only three grams of food per day.

How can we get rid of mice?

Prevention - is the First Step. Many mice live outdoors in fields during the summer and begin to seek shelter in late fall. You can prevent mouse entry by closing all openings into the house/ garage 1/4 inch or larger. Also keep kitchen floors, cupboards, drawers, shelves, and other food/food storage areas free from food particles and cleaned daily. Keep garbage stored in an approved container with fly-tight lid.

Traps - Mice can be effectively reduced by the use of traps. Mice are inquisitive running here and there - nibbling bits of food along the way. Use up to ten or twelve traps placed at ten foot intervals. Place traps where mice have been seen or where fresh droppings are observed. The most common type of mouse trap is the wooden snap trap. Bait the trigger of the trap with peanut butter, slightly cooked bacon, or other odorous food. Other traps are also available and effective - Figure 4.

Norway Rat Droppings



Figure 3



House Mouse Droppings